

'PEACE NOW' Seeks Help Of German-American Groups

EXCLUSIVE

NEW YORK POST, TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1944

"He is either an old Bundist sympathizer or a Coughlinite, but I think there is some chance we can use his energies constructively," wrote Dr. George W. Hartmann, chairman of the PEACE NOW Movement, in recommending a man to the organization's executive secretary.

With this revealing statement, Hartmann gave an inside picture of an organization which has been set up in every state in the union to revive the America First movement by demanding a negotiated peace. PEACE NOW, supported and directed by ex-America Firsters, is a rallying point for Coughlinites, ex-Bundists and anti-Semites.

The Post has just completed an exhaustive investigation of the PEACE NOW movement, in the course of which the damning letter by Hartmann was uncovered.

In his letter, written last Oct. 27, Hartmann set forth the policies of PEACE NOW for the benefit of Miss Bessie Simon, former office manager for America First at Washington.

Miss Simon for her part, at about the time this letter was written, was in touch with Sens. Wheeler and Nye and other isolationist legislators and socialites at Washington, soliciting their advice and contributions for PEACE NOW.

The organization, with national headquarters at 15 E. 40th St., since then has gained members in every state, established local units and distributed thousands of pamphlets and handbills demanding a negotiated peace.

Hartmann wrote further of the

I seem to recall to recall this James fellow as one from this neighborhood (Concord, Boston, etc) who had a run-in with the FBI last year. I wonder if he is out in Colorado because he was ordered out of the Eastern coast defense zone? At any rate, he's a live-wire: we should keep in close contact with him. I am telling Evan Thomas about him because they share the anti-conscription hobby.

Copy of my reply attached. He is either an old Bundist sympathizer or a Coughlinite, but I think there is some chance we can use his energies constructively. His suggestion about the Steuben Society is good. This is an old-line German-American social club, named after Washington's Prussian drillmaster. Its members were upper-crust well-to-do folks, just now I imagine it is quiescent. Recent immigrants were rarely, if ever, members. If you could get hold of its officer or membership list, there is a chance of some perfectly respectable contributions, since their members must all be native-born of German origin, if I remember aright. Look up in the Manhattan directory; if not there, ask the Staats-Zeitung (language-paper) about them. Maybe an English ad therein would not be a bad idea, altho they may be too scared to run it.

PARTS OF LETTER WRITTEN BY HARTMANN TO BESSIE SIMON IN OCT., 1943

PEACE NOW WITHOUT VICTORY WILL SAVE JEWS

If we persist in our present war aim of unconditional surrender; if we promise only executions, retributions, punishments, dismemberments, indemnities and no friendly participating with the rest of the world in a post-war world, we shall be depriving not only the German people of all hope, but we shall be signing the death sentence of the remnant of Jews still alive.

REPORT OF SPEECH BY JESSIE WALLACE HUGHAN IN "CATHOLIC WORKER"

"old Bundist sympathizer or Coughlinite":

"His suggestion about the Steuben Society is good. This is an old-line German-American social club, named after Washington's Prussian drillmaster. Its members were upper-crust well-to-do folks; just now I imagine it is quiescent. Recent immigrants were rarely, if ever, members."

A Good Word For "Live-Wire" James

"If you could get hold of its officer or membership list," Hartmann wrote to Miss Simon, "there is a chance of some perfectly respectable contributions, since their members must all be native-born of German origin, if I remember aright."

[The Post has in its possession

the name of the person Hartmann referred to, but is withholding it pending official investigation.] -

In the same letter, Hartmann spoke of Edward Holton James, who in 1942 was indicted on a sedition charge.

"I seem to recall this James fellow as one from this neighborhood (Concord, Boston, etc.) who had a run-in with the FBI last year. I wonder if he is out in Colorado because he was ordered out of the Eastern coast defense zone?"

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Thus PEACE NOW sought to take to its bosom a man who, six

Says Hartmann

Boston, Jan. 25—Dr. George W. Hartmann, chairman of the PEACE NOW Movement, said here yesterday, "We think we are doing pretty well. Some Senators and some Representatives we know are with us, but they are waiting to see how big we get before they take action themselves."

months after this country entered the war, was indicted after he had published handbills demanding President Roosevelt's

resignation and collaboration with the Axis.

Acting on the "old Bundist sympathizer or Coughlinite's" suggestion, PEACE NOW recently obtained a mailing list of Steuben Societies and has set about to solicit their support.

Lindbergh and Wood Get Leadership Bids

In November, 1941, a month before Pearl Harbor, the Federal Grand Jury investigating Nazi propaganda looked into the activities of the Steuben Society.

They were accused of providing outlets for the propaganda of George Sylvester Viereck, self-confessed German agent. The Society also distributed its chairman's isolationist sentiments under the Congressional franks of Sens. Wheeler and Nye.

Hartmann and Miss Simon, founders of PEACE NOW, canvassed isolationist Senators and Congressmen for support last fall and sought the leadership of two prominent ex-America Firsters, General Robert E. Wood and Col. Charles A. Lindbergh.

The Washington contacts were made by Miss Simon, who had worked for four years in government agencies and was at one time a Congressional secretary. Miss Simon also looked up old America First friends among that organization's wealthy socialite backers.

PEACE NOW to Play Role in '44 Campaign

Dr. Hartmann is a professor of educational psychology at Teachers' College at Columbia, now on leave and teaching at Harvard University. He has run for numerous offices on the Socialist Party ticket, including those of Lieutenant Governor and Mayor.

Since its organization last August, PEACE NOW has spread rapidly and its directors are planning to use it as a political force in the coming Presidential cam-

'Peace Now' Head To Speak Here

The Rev. John Haynes Holmes, pacifist pastor of the Community Church, at 40 E. 35th St., announced today that the guest speaker of his church's Sunday night forum on Feb. 20 will be Dr. George W. Hartmann, chairman of the PEACE NOW Movement.

Holmes, who offered his resignation as pastor of the church early in 1942 because he could not "bless, sanction or support" war, said he considered Hartmann "a very interesting man and he and his group have a very interesting approach to the war question."

paign either by throwing its influence for any Republican candidate, except Wendell Willkie, or by converting it into a peace party.

"To Win the War

Is to Lose the Peace"

"The PEACE NOW Movement," said Hartmann in a spell-binding speech at a rally last Dec. 30 in Carnegie Hall, "holds that the Germans and Japanese are no better but also no worse than the British and the Americans . . . One of our main jobs is to show Americans that they can have either victory or peace—they cannot have both. To win the war is the surest way to lose the peace."

Another revealing article on PEACE NOW will be published in The Post tomorrow.

Winchell Slams PEACE NOW Talk

Walter Winchell, who for years has been exposing un-American groups operating inside the limits of the United States, was the first nationally-read columnist to turn the light on PEACE NOW.

Yesterday Winchell disclosed that "Edward Holton James (who was jailed for criminally libelling FDR) co-operates with PEACE NOW via his literature."

"Dr. George Hartmann (director of PEACE NOW)," Winchell said, "told his first big audience on Dec. 30, 1943, 'We are here to create doubt in the minds of those who would keep on fighting.'"